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SENATE MEETING MINUTES May 15, 2009

The 518th Meeting of the Senate of Saint Mary's University was held on Friday, May 15, 2009 at 2:30 PM, in the Secunda Marine Boardroom. Dr. Naulls, Chairperson, presided.

PRESENT: Dr Dodds, Dr Murphy, Dr Butler, Dr Dixon, Dr Enns, Dr Vessey, Dr Bjornson, Dr Charles, Dr Kennedy, Dr Kimery, Dr McCalla, Dr Naulls, Dr Pe-Piper, Dr Stinson, Dr van Proosdij, K. Hotchkiss, M Anderson, C Dix, J Mitchell, J Hirtle, and B. Bell, Secretary to the Office of Senate

REGRETS: Dr Wicks, Dr Beaulé, Dr Crocker, Dr Dawson, Dr Pendse, Dr Rand, Dr Russell, B. MacDonald, A Gomez, and M. DeYoung.

Meeting commenced at 2:38 PM.

08081 **REPORT OF THE AGENDA COMMITTEE**

The report of the Agenda Committee was accepted. The two newly elected student senators were introduced: Jeff Mitchell and Justin Hirtle.

08082 **SPRING GRADUATES**

Documentation was circulated by the Registrar as **Appendix A**.

Dr. Dixon advised that:

- The graduate listing along with a general summary sheet, were circulated to members. There are approximately 140 to 150 fewer graduates. That difference can be explained by the number of graduates that opted to graduate in January.
- There were no special cases for graduation requiring the Senate Executive to meet. However, we have discovered a special case in regard to determining the Governor General's Silver Academic Medal
- There are two students that qualify for the silver medal. One of these two students did their degree on a part time basis over the time period - 2000 to 2009. The other student completed their degree in the normal time frame. If you calculate the GPA to the third decimal point the part-time student has the higher average. Both students are medal winners. One receives the undergraduate Governor General's Silver Academic Medal, and the other will receive the Faculty Medal for the highest cumulative grade point average in their faculty. We normally only take this calculation to two decimal places. We are asking the support of Senate to calculate the result to three decimal points.

- A senator offered the opinion that Senate should limit its consideration to the cumulative GPA calculation. If both are eligible, and a calculation taken to three decimal points identifies a winner, that is the process that should be followed.

Moved by Charles and seconded, **“that the Registrar decide the recipient of the Governor General’s Silver Academic Medal based on three decimal places”**.

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Dixon and seconded, **“to confer degrees and distinctions on those represented on the list (circulated as Appendix A) at the Spring Convocation”**.

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Dr. Dixon, and seconded, **“to enable the Registrar to add such graduates to this list as may be identified subsequent to this meeting.”**

Motion carried unanimously.

08083 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting of April 17, 2009, were circulated as ***Appendix B***.

The following amendment was noted: Page 3 of 5 – first bullet point.

- Expenses

Moved by Van Proosdij, and seconded, **“that the minutes of the meeting of April 17, 2009, be approved as amended”**.

Motion adopted.

08084 **NEW BUSINESS FROM**

None

08085 **PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

Dodds advised members of the following:

- We are the recipient of a little over \$11 million from the federal government knowledge infrastructure program. These are fifty cent dollars and have to be matched.
- Most of this money is designated for renovations on the McNally building. Work will soon start on the stone work of McNally. We also plan to do the well in front of the building that gives light to the basement offices. The roof also needs to be replaced. The renovations will be done over a period of two years.
- Question: Will the refurbishment of McNally be handled similar to the Science Building? Answer: We are hoping to do it mostly in the summer when there will be less disruption. Some of the work is contingent on the Atrium being finished. When that is open we will be moving some people out of McNally.
- Question: Is there any sense of enrolment numbers for the next academic year? Answer: At this point, applications are still 4% lower than last year. The MBA Program was running quite high year over year but those numbers have hit a plateau.

- Question: How is the early registration initiative for next year working?
Answer: For returning students there was an initial rush, primarily among business students. The reason for that is there are some business courses that tend to fill up quickly. New student registrations started April 15. Recruitment went out into the schools and advised the students in regard to their choices of courses for the various programs. Throughout that effort they found that there was not the same sense of urgency in relation to making the choice or registering. We did manage to secure some students that were on the fence so the initiative was considered to be successful.
- Question: Has there been any adjustment to provide more sections of courses that fill quickly? Answer: We are not seeing any pressure points. One change we have noted is that the international students have stayed and taken courses over the summer.
- Members were advised that Greg Ferguson has decided to retire at the end of June. The university will find a suitable occasion to recognize his contributions to SMU.

Moved by Murphy and seconded, **“that a letter of appreciation be sent to Greg Ferguson for his contributions to the university.”**
Motion carried unanimously.

08086

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Barb Bell,
Secretary to the Office of Senate